THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The severe drought this year has adversely affected production prospects of kharif crops. As no firm State-wise estimates are available yet, it is not possible to assess the extent of possible decline in the foodgrains production at the State level. However, this decline is reflected in the first advance estimate of kharif foodgrains production of 90.64 million tonnes at the All India level released on November 12, 2002.

(b) and (c) As the production of kharif foodgrains constitutes 50 to 55 per cent of the annual foodgrains production in the country, the shortfall in the kharif foodgrains production this year is expected to result in a decline from the record production of 211.32 million tonnes in 2001-02 and 209.80 million tonnes in 1999-2000. The first advance estimates for the year 2002-03 has placed total production of kharif foodgrains at 90.64 million tonnes, which is less than last year's kharif foodgrains production by 18.7 per cent.

(d) The target of foodgrains production for the year 2002-03 has been set at 220 million tonnes.

Assistance to drought affected Andhra Pradesh

*73. SHRI N.R. DASARI:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) which districts in Andhra Pradesh have been affected by the recent drought;

(b) what is the extent of loss incurred and the estimated shortfall in Kharif production in the State;

(c) what is the financial assistance sought by the State Government for relief measures and the amount sanctioned by the Union Government; and

(d) whether any steps have been taken to supply seeds, free of cost, to the poor farmers affected by the drought; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) Government of Andhra Pradesh has declared 925 mandals in 22 districts, *viz.* all districts except the urban Hyderabad district as drought affected. The approximate loss of production during kharif estimated by the State Government is of the order of 29 per cent in case of foodgrains and 41 per cent for oil-seeds. According to the information furnished by the State Government 50 per cent seed subsidy has been extended to the farmers.

The State Government has sought assistance of Rs.1210.90 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) till 30th June 2003. The assistance found admissible by the High Level Committee is Rs. 174.61 crores till the middle of January 2003. The assistance to be released from NCCF will, however, be subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund of the State. 3 lakh MTs of foodgrains, free of cost, have also been released to provide relief employment.

Meetings of Central Advisory Board on Education

*74. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Central Advisory Board on Education met during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) the decisions taken in these meetings and the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As the Central Advisory Board on Education was not reconstituted after the expiry of its term on 31st March, 1994 by the then and successive Governments, no meeting has been held during the last three years.